

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-10 and 13-14 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

The instant amendment to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, the amendment to claim 1 finds support in previous claims 11-12, which are canceled herein, in order to prevent a redundancy with amended claim 1.

Claim 13 is additionally amended to now depend from claim 1, based on the cancellation of claims 11-12 herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding office action, at page 7, paragraph "9." the Examiner indicates that "Claim 12 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Based on these comments, claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 12 (and claim 11). As a result of the amendment, it is submitted that each of pending claims 1-10 and 13-14 is now in condition for allowance.

Specification Objection

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because it contains two paragraphs. The Abstract is amended herein to be only one paragraph in length. As such, withdraw of the objection is required at present.

Claim Rejections

At pages 2-6 of the office action, the USPTO makes various claim rejections based on cited art.

The rejections are set forth in the table below.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>References Cited</u>
1)	35 USC § 102(e)	1-4, 9, 11 and 13	Hanafusa et al. (US 6,531,246)
2)	35 USC § 102(e)	1-3 and 7-9	Furusaki (US 6,673,488)
3)	35 USC § 103(a)	5 and 10	Hanafusa et al. (US 6,531,246)
4)	35 USC § 103(a)	14	Hanafusa et al. (US 6,531,246) in view of JP 11-185820
5)	35 USC § 103(a)	6	Hanafusa et al. (US 6,531,246) in view of Amine et al. (US 2005/0112461)

Accordingly, based on the amendment made herein to claim 1, wherein claim 1 now recites limitations previously recited in claim 12, it follows that withdraw of each of the above claim rejections is required at present.

In support of the above contention, it is noted that each of the pending claims now recites limitations previously found to be directed to allowable subject matter by the USPTO.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of pending claims 1-10 and 13-14 is allowed and patentable under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Application No. 10/724,218
Amendment dated March 29, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2007

Docket No.: 0020-5205P

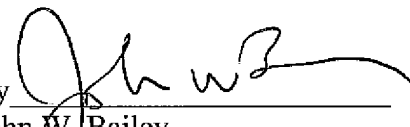
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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Enclosure: New Abstract of the Disclosure